

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00051 240225Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /044 W
-----113187 240227Z /75

R 232145Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL BELIZE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6077
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELIZE 51

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, BH, GT, UK
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ON BELIZE DISPUTE
NEGOTIATIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LEAD FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN OPPOSITION
PAPER BEACON.
BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.
BEGIN TEXT:
LINDO SOUNDS WARNING FROM MIAMI - LAND CESSION DEAL STILL ON
BELIZE CITY, THURS. DEC 19: (SIC. OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO BE JAN 19)
SPEAKING TO THE BEACON FROM THE SHERATON FOUR AMBASSADORS HOTEL IN
MIAMI, FLORIDA, USA, THIS AFTERNOON, OPPOSITION LEADER DEAN LINDO
TOLD THE BEACON THAT THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE U.K. GOVERN-
MENT IS STILL PRESSING FOR BELIZE'S ACCEPTANCE OF A CESSION OF A
PORTION OF THE TOLEDO TO GUATEMALA IN EXCHANGE FOR A SETTLEMENT OF
THE BELIZE QUESTION.

MR. LINDO LEFT ON SATURDAY TO ATTEND THE THREE-DAY SECOND
CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE ON TRADE, INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
SPONSORED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT STATE, BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN
AFFAIRS AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, DIVISION OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE CONFERENCE WAS OPENED ON THE 18TH
JANUARY BY HON. MAURICE FERRE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MIAMI.
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ACCORDING TO A NEW YORK SOURCE, UK COMMONWEALTH MINISTER TED
ROWLANDS HAVE BEEN BUSY OVER THE LAST WEEK MEETING WITH US
SECRETARY OF STATE SILUS VANCE IN WASHINGTON ON THURSDAY;
TURNING UP IN BARBADOS TO SPEAK WITH BARBADOS PRIME MINISTER
GRANTLEY ADAMS ON MONDAY, AND GOING ON TO JAMAICA TO MEET WITH
PREMIER MICHAEL MANELY AND THE BELIZE DELEGATION HEADED BY PRICE.
THERE IS SPECULATION THAT ROWLANDS IS SEEKING TO INCORPORATE

THE ASSISTANCE OF THE US IN APPLYING PRESSURE TO BELIZE, AND MAY EVEN HAVE CONVINCED PRICE TO ACCEPT IF HE COULD GET HIS FRIENDS IN THE CARIBBEAN TO AGREE. HENCE ROWLANDS' TRIP TO WASHINGTON AND BARBADOS BEFORE GOING ON TO JAMAICA.

OF COURSE, PRICE DID NOT GO TO JAMAICA ALONE AS RADIO BELIZE AND THE BELIZE INFORMATION SERVICE HAVE LED THE PUBLIC TO BELIEVE.

WHILE THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION WAS SEPAKING TO THE BEACON AT 4:10 THIS AFTERNOON, PRICE WAS TWENTY MINUTES FROM GOING INTO A SECRET MEETING WITH MR. THERENCE TODMAN, US ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS - PRESUMABLY TO BE SUBJECTED TO MORE PRESSURES.

THE BELIZE QUESTION WAS REPORTEDLY RAISED AT THE CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE BY MR. CANUTE JAMES, PRESIDENT OF THE JAMAICA PRESS ASSOCIATION, BUT THIS EFFORT REPORTED FAILED TO CRYSTALIZE THE PROBLEM.

WHEN GEORGE PRICE RETURNS TO BELIZE, HE MUST BE MADE TO COME CLEAN AND TELL THE PUBLIC THE TRUE POSITION. END TEXT.

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2. THIS ARTICLE IS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CESSION QUESTION HAS DOMINATED THE NEWS AND LOCAL POLITICS IN RECENT WEEKS.
GAWF

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, NEWSPAPERS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BELIZE00051
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780034-0831
Format: TEL
From: BELIZE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780135/aaaabdoa.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ba0525e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3733103
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ON BELIZE DISPUTE NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PBOR, SOPN, PDEV, BH, GT, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ba0525e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014